

**First English Lutheran Church**  
Wapakoneta, Ohio



Our July 2023 Newsletter

# FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)  
107 W. Mechanic Street, Wapakoneta, OH 45895  
(419) 738-3911 FAX: (419) 738-8893  
Website: [www.myfelc.org](http://www.myfelc.org) E-Mail Address: [wapakelc@bright.net](mailto:wapakelc@bright.net)

## Meet our staff...

### Pastor

Vicar Deb Monnin..... [deb.monnin@myfelc.org](mailto:deb.monnin@myfelc.org) ..... 937-726-0579

### Office Administrator

Chuck Curry ..... [wapakelc@bright.net](mailto:wapakelc@bright.net) ..... 419-738-3911

### Bookkeeper

Anderson Accounting ..... [felc.finance@myfelc.org](mailto:felc.finance@myfelc.org) ..... 419-738-3911

### Financial Secretary/Treasurer

Georgeann Stienecker... ..... [nksoccer@nktelco.net](mailto:nksoccer@nktelco.net) ..... 419-305-5066

### Music Director

Darla Frame ..... [darlaframe@gmail.com](mailto:darlaframe@gmail.com) ..... 419-234-3283

### Choir Directors

Susan Miller, Adult ..... [sugartime@bright.net](mailto:sugartime@bright.net) ..... 567-356-1844

Niki Oren, Bells ..... [niki\\_oren@hotmail.com](mailto:niki_oren@hotmail.com) ..... 567-712-8674

Darla Frame, Bells ..... [darlaframe@gmail.com](mailto:darlaframe@gmail.com) ..... 419-234-3283

Bailey Van Meter &

Makayla Frame, Youth ..... 419-738-3911

### Church Council

Brenda Shoffstall..... [shoffstall08@yahoo.com](mailto:shoffstall08@yahoo.com) ..... 419-233-1956

Teresa Fisher ..... [tatmfisher@bright.net](mailto:tatmfisher@bright.net) ..... 419-236-5628

Dave Clift..... [right\\_guy12@hotmail.com](mailto:right_guy12@hotmail.com) ..... 419-231-9800

Georgeann Stienecker... ..... [nksoccer@nktelco.net](mailto:nksoccer@nktelco.net) ..... 419-305-5066

Denise Kantner ..... [jadak@bright.net](mailto:jadak@bright.net) ..... 419-738-8289

Rebecca Van Meter ..... [rgvanmeter@yahoo.com](mailto:rgvanmeter@yahoo.com) ..... 419-230-4979

Jeff Ritchie ..... [jritchie002@woh.rr.com](mailto:jritchie002@woh.rr.com) ..... 419-296-3794

Jon Schmidt ..... [ohthreeohsix@gmail.com](mailto:ohthreeohsix@gmail.com) ..... 419-231-3284

Darla Frame ..... [darlaframe@gmail.com](mailto:darlaframe@gmail.com) ..... 419-234-3283

### Audio/Visual Specialist

Dave Curry ..... [dlcy@bright.net](mailto:dlcy@bright.net) ..... 937-307-8596

### Audio/Visual Staff

Jeff Ritchie ..... [jritchie002@woh.rr.com](mailto:jritchie002@woh.rr.com) ..... 419-296-3794

Noah Kirby ..... [noah.w.kirby@gmail.com](mailto:noah.w.kirby@gmail.com) ..... 419-905-8243

The mission of First English Lutheran Church is to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ  
and to love one another as He loves us.

## ***The Parables of the Seeds ---***



*“Jesus replied, ‘ for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest...’.* Matthew 13:29-30a

I love looking at the fields this time of year. What’s planted? Corn, beans, wheat, alfalfa? It’s fun to see how much they’ve grown from day to day or week to week!

But sometimes there are weeds in the fields – sometimes things pop up which were not planted. Sometimes surprises come up which we didn’t expect. It happens in our fields and gardens and in our life.

Surprises – plans change, people get sick, jobs end, kids do unexpected things, cars break, Surprises. Some are good, some take a while to adjust to. What do we do in the meantime? Do we try to stop the surprise? Do we ignore it? What do we do?

When the farmers in Biblical times had weeds crop up in their fields, they knew it would reduce the harvest. In those days and sometimes today – that might mean the difference between having enough to eat all through the winter or starving. So, you can understand why the farmers would want to pull the weeds right out as soon as they spotted one. But Jesus said – let them grow – we’ll sort them out later.

I wonder if the farmers asked Jesus Why?? Why would we jeopardize what we KNOW to be true – what we KNOW will cause us loss? Why Jesus, why would we let that weed grow, knowing it’ll cause problems? And Jesus said wait – wait because there’s a bigger thing going on.

I wonder if we do the same today? How often do we want the answer now? How often do we want to know which path to take? How often do we wonder why this weed or pain or hard thing is coming up in our life right now?

Jesus invites us to wait – to wait until the harvest and separate them out then. Perhaps that thing we think is a weed in our life is something that brings joy? Or helps us see something else clearly? And in our waiting what are we to do? Pray, Check on our neighbors, Take care of what comes. Enjoy the gifts God provides right now. Feel the sun and trust in God’s wisdom. May God be with you and May God bring patience and calmness in the waiting – AMEN –

## **Worship Q&A:**

Have you ever wondered why we ring the bell? Or light the candles the way we do? Or maybe you wondered where the words come from that we use in worship?

Beginning in July during the announcement time of worship, we will share some info on the topic of the day – and then after worship during fellowship time, we'll have a Q&A where you can ask more questions and share your knowledge!

If you have a question or wondering about worship or about our sanctuary – let Chuck or Vicar Deb know!

Here's our tentative plan! Thanks for your questions!

- 9-Jul Q&A - Why Worship? - Prelude & Bell Ringing
- 16-Jul Q&A - Candles
- 30-Jul Q&A - Confession & Forgiveness

### Future Topics

- Q&A - Liturgy & Readings
- Q&A - Message - Children's also
- Q&A - Creeds
- Q&A - Songs
- Q&A - Stained Glass Windows
- Q&A - Prayers: of the day/Prayers of the people
- Q&A - Communion
- Q&A - Altar Guild
- Q&A - Church Year & Parament Colors & Banners

## **Thank you!**

Thank you for the graduation celebration for me and for all the High School and College graduates. Thank you for the fellowship, thank you for the cake reception, thank you for the tree! It'll replace some of the trees we planted when we first moved to Minster – over 30 years ago – thank you! Vicar Deb.

## **VBS Thank you!**

Thank you for your prayers, for your presence and for your light during Vacation Bible School. Thank you to all who helped, who led, and who participated in VBS this year.

**\*\*\* SHINE JESUS' LIGHT!!! \*\*\***

## Homeless Ministry

Homelessness is a growing concern in Auglaize County. We currently know of about 150 homeless individuals living in Auglaize County. We think that figure could be much higher because it can be hard to identify the homeless. Homelessness isn't just people sleeping on park benches or holding up cardboard signs, it also includes people living out of their car and individuals who are crashing at a friend's place. Is that person waiting in their car for the store to open or is that where they slept last night? Is that young lady in the lobby waiting to be picked up from work or does she have nowhere else to go? It's hard to tell.

For the past year, First English has quietly gotten more involved in ministering to the homeless and housing insecure residents of Auglaize County. In cooperation with several local agencies and organizations, including the Wapakoneta Area Ministerial Association, Candle of Hope (the Auglaize County Homeless Coalition), God's Storehouse, Agape Ministries (St. Marys), Mercy Unlimited, The Salvation Army, Loaves and Fishes, and several local churches, FELC has taken a key role in combating homelessness and food and housing insecurity in our community.

Typically, these efforts have had one of two objectives depending on the individual's situation; for the person just passing through, we might provide a hot meal and a tank of gas or a night in a hotel, but for the person facing long-term homelessness, we try to walk alongside them and help them reach a point of stabilization. Stabilization is a point where the household has a reliable source of income that covers their housing costs and basic needs. Unfortunately, it can take several months to reach a point of stability. Sometimes households reach out for help early enough that we have an opportunity to prevent homelessness, perhaps by helping with food or gas or a utility bill. More often, however, we work with households that are already homeless. For these households the first two things we work on are short-term housing and employment.

Auglaize County does not have a homeless shelter, so short-term housing might be crashing on a friend's couch, a hotel room, sleeping in their car, or even camping at a local campground. Employment is a key component of the transition to stability, because most of the aid available to them requires proof of income. Additionally, employment empowers the individual to be an active participant in changing their circumstances. We make it clear that we are offering a hand up, not handouts. Often there are issues preventing them from finding employment such as a lack of valid ID, a suspended license, a criminal background, or lack of transportation. Through our partner agencies we are able to help them overcome these issues by guiding them through the maze of paperwork, connecting them with employers willing to look beyond a past mistake, and occasionally asking for donations of bikes or camping equipment.

If you would like to hear more about how FELC is helping the homeless or if you want to get involved, please contact Chuck Curry in the church office. Please hold this ministry in your prayers – pray for the people helping, for the people needing help, and for our hearts to be open to what we might discover as we walk together!

## FELC Committees, Chairpersons, Council Liaisons

Committee	Chairperson	Liaison
Building & Property	Brenda Shoffstall	Jeff Ritchie
Christian Education/Youth	Rebecca Van Meter	Rebecca Van Meter
Evangelism	Rebecca Van Meter	Denise Kantner
Finance	Cari Frame	Dave Clift
Life & Fellowship	Brenda Shoffstall	Darla Frame
Social Ministry	Rebecca Van Meter	Teresa Fisher
Staff Support	Cari Frame	Jon Schmidt
Stewardship	Meets with Finance	Brenda Shoffstall
Worship & Music	Darla Frame	Georgeann Stienecker

### Our Prayer Corner

#### Those who would love a visit or a card...

Auglaize Acres	Dennis McCormick
Otterbein at Cridersville	Sharon Billiter, Rex Lippincott, Betty Lietz
Otterbein at St. Marys	Dorothy Dickman
The Gardens	Betty Hague, Dale Thomas

#### *We especially remember in our prayers...*

The family and friends of Scott Fisher,  
Tracy Anderson, Don Cole, Dominic Cousins, Jacob Cox, Janice Etkorn,  
Connie Kantner, Bryan Katterhenry, Wayne & Judy Kentner, Mike Lafon, Rex Lippincott,  
Lynne Loebach, Sasha Maslov, Dennis McCormick, Mitchell Metz,  
Cathy & Desmond Miller, Nici Rapp, Sue Schoonover, Pam Schulz, Adam Schulze,  
Alex Shirey, Alayna Smith Geiger, Donna Stowell Dague, Seth Thuman,  
Dale & Mary Ann Thomas, Linda Thompson, Tony Wallace, Eddie Whetstone,  
Hannah Wood, Angela, Paul, and Skyler.

We remember in our prayers our military serving at home and abroad, under represented and oppressed people, EMTs, firefighters, police officers, healthcare workers, and our veterans.

*If we are missing anyone in our prayer corner, please call or email the office and let us know. If there is anyone who wishes to be removed, please do the same.*

## Weekly Attendance and Offerings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Views</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Current Giving</u>	<u>NWOS Benevolence</u>
05/28/2023	11	63	\$1,257.00	\$10.00
06/04/2023	17	90	\$4,300.00	\$76.00
06/11/2023	14	108	\$2,355.00	\$62.00
06/18/2023	17	43	\$2,065.00	\$110.00
06/25/2023	17	47	\$7,475.00	\$16.00

2023 current budgeted expenses are \$210,480.66, or \$4,047.71 per week.

FELC can now accept online donations through the church website thanks to our partnership with Tithe.ly online giving. Just visit myfelc.org or scan the QR code to the right. From the church website click on the green GIVE button and follow the prompts.

Thank you for your support!



## 2023 Noisy Offerings

<b>Month</b>	<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Amount Collected</b>
January	Luke Kline Eagle Scout Project	\$1,741.43
February	Tanzanian Lutheran Church	\$1,000.00
March	Turkey Earthquake Victims	\$567.67
April	Morgan's Place	\$1,251.76
May	Wapak Area Tornado Relief	\$176.00
June	Bingo at the Acres	\$80.92
July	Servant's Day	

## Flowers and Candles

### Altar Flowers for the month of June:

July 2 <sup>nd</sup>	--available--
July 9 <sup>th</sup>	--available--
July 16 <sup>th</sup>	--available--
July 23 <sup>rd</sup>	--available--
July 30 <sup>th</sup>	--available--

### Altar Candles for the month of July:

The **Altar Candles** are given to the Glory of God by Marsha Jackson in memory of her parents, Charles and Mabel Jackson.

## Ministries in Action

	July 2 <sup>nd</sup>	July 9 <sup>th</sup>	July 16 <sup>th</sup>	July 23 <sup>rd</sup>	July 30 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Acolyte</b>	N/A	Harrison Anderson	Deven Whetstone	Doris Fisher	Harrison Anderson
<b>Lector</b>	N/A	Brenda Shoffstall	Marsha Jackson	Chuck Curry	Jennie Grundey
<b>Ushers</b>	N/A	Dave Krites & Brian Van Meter	Ken Frame & Jon Schmidt	Clayton Fisher & Luke Kline	Steve Stienecker & Jim Kantner
<b>Worship Assistant</b>	N/A	Chuck Curry	Jon Schmidt	Deanna Ronan	Susan Miller
<b>Musician</b>	N/A	Greg Tabler	Karen Luginbuhl	Darla Frame	Darla Frame
<b>Preacher</b>	Vicar Deb Monnin	Vicar Deb Monnin	Vicar Deb Monnin	Christmas in July – No Communion	Vicar Deb Monnin
<b>Greeter</b>	N/A	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>

**Altar Guild for July: Cari Frame & Hilary Roeger**

**Fellowship Cleanup for July: Cari Frame & Hilary Roeger**

## The Word of God

Sunday	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Psalm	2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Gospel
July 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Jeremiah 28:5-9	Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18	Romans 6:12-23	Matthew 10:40-42
July 9 <sup>th</sup>	Zechariah 9:9-12	Psalm 145:8-14	Romans 7:15-25a	Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
July 16 <sup>th</sup>	Isaiah 55:10-13	Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13	Romans 8:1-11	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
July 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Isaiah 44:6-8	Psalm 86:11-17	Romans 8:12-25	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
July 30 <sup>th</sup>	1 Kings 3:5-12	Psalm 119:129-136	Romans 8:26-39	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52
August 6 <sup>th</sup>	Isaiah 55:1-5	Psalm 145: 8-9, 14-21	Romans 9:1-5	Matthew 14:13-21
August 13 <sup>th</sup>	1 Kings 19:9-18	Psalm 85:8-13	Romans 10:5-15	Matthew 14:22-33
August 20 <sup>th</sup>	Isaiah 56:1, 6-8	Psalm 67	Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32	Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28
August 27 <sup>th</sup>	Isaiah 51:1-6	Psalm 138	Romans 12:1-8	Matthew 16:13-20



## FELC News and Events...

**Personal contact information...**if there has been a change in your family's contact information, please contact the church office by email at [wapakelc@bright.net](mailto:wapakelc@bright.net) or by calling the office at 419-738-3911.

### **Education/Worship Schedule:**

9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School  
10:00 a.m. Worship in person and online at [www.myfelc.org](http://www.myfelc.org)

**Adult Sunday School** is meeting in the parlor at 9:00am on Sunday mornings. We would love for everyone to join our discussion and fellowship. Please contact Rebecca Van Meter if you are interested in joining us via Zoom or Facetime. All are welcome!

**Quilting Group** meets on third Wednesday of the month, from 10am-12noon in the parlor. If you would like to join this group or have questions, please contact Darla Frame.

**Loaves and Fishes** Meals need to be reserved by calling 567-204-6708 and can be picked up in the alley behind the Fellowship Hall from 4:30 to 5:30 pm.

**Wednesday prayer** You are welcome to join us as we pray together on Wednesdays. This summer, Vicar Deb and others pray at Trinity, Moulton at noon.

### **Noisy Offering for the month of JULY: Servant's Day**

Offering pans are located in the chapel and at the back of the church. Donations are accepted during the entire month.

**Men's Night** is scheduled for Thursday, July 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at the Wooden Shoe in Minster.

**Ladies' Night** is scheduled for Tuesday, June 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at Chuck and Joy Kantner's lodge. Please bring a dish and something to drink and enjoy some great fellowship!

**Alive Music Festival** The high school youth group (current 8th-12th graders) will be attending the Alive Music Festival in Mineral City, Ohio. We will be leaving July 12th and returning very late on July 15th. If you are interested in attending please talk to Rebecca.

**Joint Worship Service** We will be worshipping together with Trinity Moulton on **July 2 at 9 AM**. Join us in their Shelter House and connect with friends from Trinity.

**Christmas in July** Join us for Christmas in July on **July 23**. We will be having a worship service of Lessons & Carols and fun fellowship will be had afterward.

## **Announcements from Council**

Council met on June 25 following a meeting with the internship committee.

We had some time to reflect on any God moments during the past few weeks.

Vicar Deb led us in prayer. We then began looking at the business of the Church, and carefully looked over our treasurer and financial reports discussing ways to inform our congregation as to our coming needs.

We listened to the Vicar's report regarding some slight changes. Tuesday will be Vicar Deb's day off beginning July 11, but she is always available by phone. She will be preaching 3 Sundays a month with a lay minister or supply pastor for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday. Please contact her if anyone is interested in helping out.

Rally Day has been changed to Sunday September 17, at Veteran Park in Wapak.

Finance/ Stewardship committee will be meeting July 12 to consider a pastoral compensation package.

We also discussed a code of conduct that is being used in our church council. It is in the process of being edited for congregational use. We will be discussing this with the congregation as to ways it can benefit us all.

Council then voted to proceed to a congregational vote which will tentatively be in August, regarding extending a call to Vicar Deb. More news will follow shortly.

Brenda Shoffstall  
Council President

## **A Message Regarding Surveys**

In recent weeks, I have been asked questions regarding the surveys that were done. As Council president, I want to assure everyone that the submitted surveys were thoughtfully considered by council during the decision- making process.

I thank you for your comments and will continue to listen and respond to questions. Please refer to your April newsletter of the overview of Survey responses.

Sincerely,  
Brenda Shoffstall  
Council President

## July 2023 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>2</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost  Worship @ 9am Outdoor Service @ Trinity Moulton	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>  12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Prayer @FELC	<b>6</b>  4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost Adult Sunday School @ 9am Worship @ 10am	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>  12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Prayer @FELC 6:00pm Finance & Stewardship	<b>13</b>  4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes  6pm Men's Night @ The Wooden Shoe	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost Adult Sunday School @ 9am Worship @ 10am  Council Meeting following worship	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>  6:00pm Ladies' Night @ Chuck & Joy Kanter's	<b>19</b> 10am Quilting 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity	<b>20</b>  4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 8 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost Christmas in July Adult Sunday School @ 9am Worship @ 10am	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>  12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Prayer @FELC 6:00pm Staff Support	<b>27</b>  4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 9 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost Adult Sunday School @ 9am Worship @ 10am	<b>31</b>					

## August 2023 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Prayer @FELC Girl Scouts	<b>3</b> 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 10 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost Adult Sunday School @ 9am Worship @ 10am	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Prayer @FELC Girl Scouts	<b>10</b> 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes  6pm Men's Night @ TBD	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 11 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost Adult Sunday School @ 9am Worship @ 10am	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 6:00pm Ladies' Night @TBD	<b>16</b> 10am Quilting 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Prayer @FELC Girl Scouts	<b>17</b> 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 12 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost Adult Sunday School @ 9am Worship @ 10am	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Prayer @FELC Girl Scouts	<b>24</b> 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 13 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost Adult Sunday School @ 9am Worship @ 10am	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	<b>31</b>	